

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 03 Dec 2023 ..... Genesis 01 ..... The First Week
- 2) 10 Dec ..... Genesis 02 ..... The First Couple
- 3) 17 Dec ..... Genesis 03 ..... The First Sin
- 4) 24 Dec ..... Luke 02:1-15 ..... The First Christmas
- 5) 31 Dec ..... Genesis 04-05 ..... The First Murder
- 6) 07 Jan 2024 ..... Genesis 06-07 ..... Judgment
- 7) 14 Jan ..... Genesis 08 ..... Land!
- 8) 21 Jan ..... Genesis 09-10 ..... Protect
- 9) 28 Jan ..... Genesis 11 ..... Stalled
- 10) 04 Feb ..... Genesis 12-14 ..... Promised
- 11) 11 Feb ..... Genesis 15-16 ..... Impatience
- 12) 18 Feb ..... Genesis 17 ..... Established
- 13) 25 Feb ..... Genesis 18-20 ..... Purged**

**INTRODUCTION**

- Would you give your daughter or fiancé over to wicked and perverted men to spare the lives of a stranger?
- Just because cultures have some practices which seem foreign to us, doesn't make them necessarily biblically right or wrong – BUT such things must be evaluated in the light of Scripture
  - ♦ It may have been "normal" in Abraham's day for people to beget heirs via their slaves, but the Bible labels it adulterary ..... [Ex 20:14](#)
  - ♦ Lot's culture put the needs of strangers ahead of family. Scripture seems to put the needs of family before the needs of others, else we are worse than an infidel ..... [1Tim 5:8](#)
- ♦ Another cultural example, in ancient Rome it was OK to leave unwanted infants at the garbage dump for the dogs to feast on. What does the Bible have to say about this cultural norm?

Passage	Comments
Genesis 18:1-15	<p><b>Is Anything Too Hard for the Lord?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-2. Abraham recognized the three visitors as special – One of them being the Lord Himself, a Christophany – Christ in the flesh in the OT                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Does God still appear to men in such fashion? NO. Consider <a href="#">Heb 1:1-2</a> – where God in times past appeared to Old Testament saints in special ways</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv13-15. ...and the Lord, after being laughed at about Sarah getting pregnant at her advanced age, asked Abraham, "Is anything too hard for me?"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ If God can throw the universe into existence with all of its intricacies to support life on earth, He can easily bypass, bend, or even violate laws of nature, which He created, to allow a 90-year-old woman to conceive, deliver, and nurse a healthy baby</li> <li>♦ A follow-on question is, 'does God still do such supernatural miracles and wonders today?' If not, why not? Consider, "<a href="#">Where are the Miracles?</a>"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
18:16-33	<p><b>Abraham Negotiates with God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv20-21. Outcries from the oppressed in Sodom &amp; Gomorrah reflect a lack of righteousness and justice</li> <li>• God was willing to spare Sodom &amp; Gomorrah if 10 righteous people could be found in them. But alas, only 4 were found, so God tried to move them out of harm's way                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Can we negotiate with God as Abraham did?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Does God's patience with men have its limits? ..... Yep                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ God tolerated Israel's sins for about 250 years</li> <li>♦ God tolerated Judah's sins for about 400 years</li> </ul> </li> <li>• What is it about the sins of sexual perversion that forces God to wipe out entire people groups?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Consider Noah's Day (<a href="#">Gen 6</a>); here in Sodom / Gomorrah; in the land of Canaan during the time of Israel's march into the Promise Land (<a href="#">Lev 18:24</a>), in the Tribe of Benjamin (<a href="#">Judges 19-21</a>); and eventually throughout all of Israel prior to the Babylonian dispersion (<a href="#">Ezek 16:47-48</a>)</li> <li>♦ Is America open to such judgment from God for our open and flagrant sexual deviances? Can such judgment be averted? Consider Nineveh's repentance (tho, short-lived)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
19:1-38	<p><b>Time to Wipe Out Two Cities Due to Sexual Sin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recall that Lot was troubled by the town's sins ..... <a href="#">2Pet 2:7</a></li> <li>• v8. Lot was willing to hand his 2 daughters over to perverts.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How far would you go to protect someone?</li> <li>♦ Was Lot acting piously or was his thinking warped?</li> <li>♦ Recall that Lot made attempts to curb their sins by sitting at the gate acting as a righteous judge ..... vv 1, 9</li> <li>♦ Our thinking can be warped by being too comfortable in our environment. How many of us protest abortion clinics or have even written our Congressmen to vote pro-life</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Sexual perversion seems to be a symptom of something bigger → Pride ..... <a href="#">Ezek 16:49</a></li> <li>• vv15-26. Escape from Sodom                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Lot hesitates!! ..... WHY?</li> <li>♦ Lot negotiates with the destroyers!! ..... WHY?</li> <li>♦ Lot's wife looks back!! (cf <a href="#">Lk 17:32</a>) ..... WHY?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv30-38. Lot unintentionally impregnates his 2 daughters                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Lot's daughters are not thinking Biblically.</li> <li>♦ Man's ideas for quick and easy answers seem better than waiting for God to respond</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
20:1-18	<p><b>Abraham Tells Another Whopper</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God talks to a "non-believer" in a dream</li> <li>• vv7, 17-18. Principle of praying for others                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Why would God have Abimelech ask Abraham to pray for a healing? The fervent prayers of a righteous man avails much ..... <a href="#">James 5:16</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- How far would you accommodate someone's cultural practices to avoid offending them?
  - ♦ Would you let a guest or even a son room together in your house with his live-in girlfriend or boyfriend?
- All things, including cultural practices, must be evaluated in the light of Scripture, which is timeless & supersedes all cultural norms
  - ♦ Thanks to the Gospel, many abhorrent cultural practices have been stopped or curtailed over the years, such as cannibalism, infanticide, child labor, female circumcision, and slavery
- Intercessory prayer (e.g., Abraham for Lot) is crucial – especially for the righteous
- Also, we may be living in despicable times, in despicable places, working with despicable people, but we need to be salt of the earth – and not pillars of salt

